AP Literature: Summer Assignment

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Step 2: Sign up for your Text Reminder

* Phone number you’re texting: 720-924-4595
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Allusions and Archetypal Symbols

An allusion is a reference, explicit or implicit, to something in previous literature or history. This in an important literary concept that you will encounter repeatedly in poetry, drama, and fiction. With allusions, authors can engage the reader in making associating and creating meaning. However, if you are unaware of allusions, you will miss some of these meanings. This is not okay for an AP student!

Below are allusions and symbols, split into lists of specific categories: Biblical Allusions, Greek and Roman Mythology Allusions, Authurian Allusions, Archetypal Symbols, and Literary Allusions made in modern music.

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| **Biblical Allusions** | **Greek and Roman Mythology Allusions** |
| Creation  Adam and Eve  Cain and Able (the mark of Cain)  David and Goliath  Moses (birth to the promised land)  Abraham and Isaac  Tower of Babel  Jonah and the Whale  Samson and Delilah  Solomon  Job  Joseph and the coat of Many Colors  Armageddon  Daniel in the Lion’s Den  Elijah  Jezebel  Sodom and Gomorrah  Birth of Jesus  Parable of the Prodigal Son  Lazarus  John the Baptist  Last Baptist  Last Supper  Judas  Crucifixion and Resurrection  Doubting Thomas  Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse  7 Deadly Sins | Prometheus (and Io)  Narcissus  The Golden Fleece  Orpheus and Eurydice  Daedalus (and Icarus)  Cupid and Psyche  Pygmalion and Galatea  Daphne (and Apollo)  Perseus  Theseus  Hercules  Oedipus (including Sphinx)  Antigone  The Trojan War (fall of Troy)  Achilles  Helen of Troy  The Trojan Horse  Midas  Bacchus  Agamemnon, Orestes, and Electra (*The Oresteia*)  Leda and the Swan  Pandora  Odysseus/Ulysses (know who he is, do NOT study *The Odyssey*) |
| **Arthurian Allusions** | **Archetypal Symbols** |
| Uther and Igraine and the story of Arthur’s birth  Arthur, Guenevere, and Lancelot (their stories and the love triangle)  Sir Gawain and “Sir Gawain and the Green Knight”  Merlin  Morgan le Fay  Nimue alias Vivienne, Lady of the Lake  Mordred  Avalon  Camelot  Excalibur  The Sword in the Stone  The Hold Grail | Light – Darkness  Water – Desert  Heaven – Hell  Colors  Geographic/geologic features (mountains, forests, gardens, rivers, etc) |
| **Common Allusions in Modern Music** |
| Romeo and Juliet  Holden Caulfield (Catcher in the Rye)  Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde  Wuthering Heights (Cathy)  Edgar Allan Poe   * The Raven * Tell-Tale Heart   Estella Havishman (Great Expectations)  Psalm 23 |

With these 70+ allusions and symbols, you will be responsible for researching their original text, their significance in their original text, their meanings, examples of where they appear in literature, examples of where they appear in music and/or their significance in the piece they are alluded. Below are the templates you are to use to report your research. Pay attention to which type of allusion or symbol is to be reported by which template.

**Template for Biblical and Mythological Allusions:**

Allusion:

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Title of Allusion’s Original Text:

Robert Louis Stevenson’s 1886 novel, "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” or “The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”

Pithy **(concise; forcefully expressive)** Explanation of the Meaning of the Allusion in Original Text:

If someone comments that you are a real “Jekyll and Hyde”, it should not be taken as a compliment. The allusion to Jekyll and Hyde can be found in a number of literary works as well as in today’s pop culture. This allusion means that someone may have a dual personality, one side good – the other evil. In the novel, “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”, Dr. Jekyll was a respectable doctor who friends and colleagues thought very highly of until he developed a “friendship” with a villainous Mr. Hyde. As the story goes, Dr. Jekyll had developed an interest in finding out if a person was able to live a double life, so he experimented on himself. His everyday life was that of the respectable Dr. Jekyll and when he drank his experimental potion, he turned into the evil Mr. Hyde. Any comparison to a person being a Jekyll and Hyde would not be a compliment.